

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KRISTY FIELDS,

Plaintiff,

v.

COLOR STREET LLC, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-03864-FLA (PVCx)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY
ACTION SHOULD NOT BE
REMANDED FOR LACK OF
SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

Federal courts are courts of “limited jurisdiction,” possessing only “power authorized by the Constitution and statute[.]” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994); U.S. Const. art. III, § 2, cl. 1. Courts are presumed to lack jurisdiction unless the contrary appears affirmatively from the record. *See DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Cuno*, 547 U.S. 332, 342 n. 3 (2006). Additionally, federal courts have an obligation to examine jurisdiction *sua sponte* before proceeding to the merits of a case. *See Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil Co.*, 526 U.S. 574, 583 (1999).

The Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”) vests original jurisdiction in district courts over a purported class action if all the following requirements are met: (1) the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million; (2) at least one putative class member is a citizen of a state different from any defendant; and (3) the putative class exceeds 100

1 members. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), (5). The removing defendant bears the burden of
2 establishing federal jurisdiction, “including any applicable amount in controversy
3 requirement.” *Abrego Abrego v. The Dow Chem. Co.*, 443 F.3d 676, 682–83 (9th Cir.
4 2006) (citing *Gaus v. Miles, Inc.*, 980 F.2d 564, 566 (9th Cir. 1992)). However,
5 unlike cases removed under diversity jurisdiction, “no antiremoval presumption
6 attends cases invoking CAFA.” *Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co. v. Owens*, 574
7 U.S. 81, 89 (2014).

8 A notice removing a case from state court to federal court must include “a
9 plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional
10 threshold.” *Id.* Where a party contests or the court questions another party’s
11 allegations concerning the amount in controversy, both sides shall submit proof and
12 the court must decide whether the party asserting jurisdiction has proven the amount
13 in controversy by a preponderance of the evidence. *Id.* at 88–89; *see* 28 U.S.C.
14 § 1447 (“If at any time before final judgment it appears that the district court lacks
15 subject matter jurisdiction, the case shall be remanded.”).

16 This procedure applies equally to the amount in controversy requirement in
17 CAFA actions. “When plaintiffs ... have prepared a complaint that does not assert the
18 amount in controversy, or that affirmatively states that the amount in controversy does
19 not exceed \$5 million, if a defendant wants to pursue a federal forum under CAFA,
20 that defendant in a jurisdictional dispute has the burden to put forward evidence
21 showing that the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million ... and to persuade the
22 court that the estimate of damages in controversy is a reasonable one.” *Ibarra v.*
23 *Manheim Invs. Inc.*, 775 F.3d 1193, 1197 (9th Cir. 2015). “Under this system,
24 CAFA’s requirements are to be tested by consideration of real evidence and the reality
25 of what is at stake in the litigation, using reasonable assumptions underlying the ...
26 theory of damages exposure.” *Id.* As a result, the party asserting jurisdiction in
27 CAFA actions bears the burden to put forward allegations and sufficient evidence that
28 the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million.


1 The court has reviewed Defendant's Notice of Removal and is presently unable
2 to conclude it has subject matter jurisdiction under CAFA. In particular, and without
3 limitation, the court finds that the allegations in the Notice of Removal do not
4 demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount in controversy
5 exceeds \$5 million.

6 Accordingly, the parties are ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE, in writing only,
7 within fourteen (14) days from the date of this Order, why this action should not be
8 remanded for lack of subject matter jurisdiction because the amount in controversy
9 does not exceed the jurisdictional threshold. The parties are encouraged to submit
10 evidence and/or judicially noticeable facts in response to the court's Order.
11 Responses shall be limited to ten (10) pages in length. The parties should consider
12 this Order to be a two-pronged inquiry into the facial and factual sufficiency of
13 Defendant's demonstration of jurisdiction. *See Leite v. Crane Co.*, 749 F.3d 1117,
14 1122 (9th Cir. 2014).

15 As it is the party asserting federal jurisdiction, Defendant's failure to timely
16 respond to this Order shall result in the remand of this action without further warning.

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18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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20 Dated: May 22, 2025

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23 FERNANDO L. AENLLE-ROCHA
24 United States District Judge
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